REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 5-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102; claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103; and claims 3, 4 and 17 are objected.

In response, Applicant has canceled claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application(s) directed to claimed subject matter that has been canceled via cancellation of claims 1-21. Thus, the cancellation of claims 1-21 should not be deemed as an intent on the part of Applicant to narrow and/or disclaim any claimed subject matter in view of same. Accordingly, the outstanding rejections have been rendered moot in view of same.

As previously discussed, Applicant has added claims 22-51. No new matter has been added thereby. Further, Applicant believes that the subject matter as defined in newly added claims 22-51 is patentable over the cited art.

For the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

Robert M. Barrett Reg. No. 30,142 P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: October 9, 2003